

INVASION BEGINS; LAND IN FRANCE

D-Day Begins With Big Assault

By WES GALLAGHER

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE—(AP)—Allied forces landed in Northern France early today in history's greatest overseas operation, designed to destroy the power of Hitler's Germany and wrest enslaved Europe from the Nazis.

The German radio said the landings were made from Le Havre to Cherbourg, along the north coast of Normandy and the south side of the Bay of the Seine.

Allied Headquarters did not specify the locations, but left no doubt whatever that the landings were on a gigantic scale.

Ringling in their ears, the American, British and Canadian Forces who made the landings had these words from their supreme commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower:

"You are about to embark on a great crusade. The eyes of the world are upon you and the hopes and prayers of all liberty-loving peoples go with you. . . . We will accept nothing less than full victory."

The German radio filled the air with invasion flashes for three hours before the formal Allied announcement came at 7:32 A. M. Greenwich Mean Time (3:32 A. M. EST.)

It acknowledged deep penetrations of the Cherbourg Peninsula by Allied parachute and glider troops in great strength.

The assault was supported by gigantic bombardments from Allied warships and planes, which the Germans admitted set the coastal areas ablaze.

A senior officer at Supreme Headquarters said rough water caused "awful anxiety" for the seaborne troops but that the landings were made successfully, although some soldiers were undoubtedly seasick.

The sun broke through heavy clouds periodically this morning after a daybreak shower. The wind had blown fairly hard during the night but moderate somewhat with the dawn. The weather outlook remained somewhat unsettled.

"Under the command of General Eisenhower, Allied naval forces supported by strong air forces began landing Allied ar-

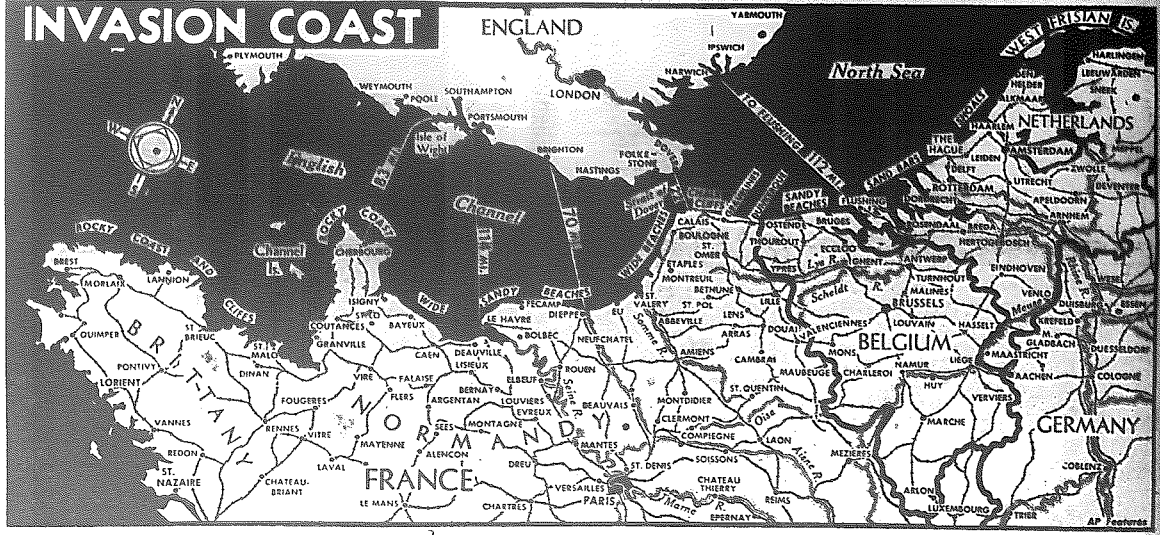
Commander's Message

NEW YORK—The OWI reported today this statement by Gen. Eisenhower was broadcast by Allied radio in London:

"People of Western Europe: A landing was made this morning on the coast of France by troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force. This landing is part of the concerted United Nations plan for the liberation of Europe, made in connection with your great Allied Allies.

"Although the initial assault may not have been made in your own country, the hour of your liberation is approaching.

"All Patriots, men and women, young and old, have a part to play in the achievement of



Mighty Allied forces under the direction of Supreme Commander Eisenhower landed in France today in a direct assault on Fortress Europe. Available reports indicated that the landings were in the Cherbourg, Caen, Le Havre area on the Normandy coast.

Bulletin

LONDON—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill told the House of Commons today that an immense Allied armada of 4,000 ships with several thousand smaller craft had carried Allied forces across the Channel for the invasion of Europe.

Churchill also said that massed air-borne landings had been successfully effected behind the Germans' lines.

He said this morning on the northern coast of France.

It was announced moments later that Britain's Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, hero of the Eighth Army victories in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, was in charge of the assault.

A senior officer at Headquarters said the times of landings varied to take advantage of the various tide stages at different beaches. Except for the airborne troops, the first landing times varied from 6 A. M. to 8:25 A. M. British Double Summer Time (midnight to 2:25 A. M. EWT.)

Although the Germans almost immediately announced that the grand assault had started, Eisenhower delayed his announcement in order to make absolutely certain the landings had taken hold before saying anything.

The Allied forces had been ready for days, but were awaiting the best moment from the weather-standpoint.

"We have been months and years waiting for this," said a senior officer giving correspondents the story at Headquarters.

"Geography made it evident to the Germans as well as us that the shortest way to

Europe was across the Channel.

"I don't know how much tactical surprise we achieved. It is too early to tell."

First reports from across the Channel, however, indicated that the Allies definitely controlled the air over the scene of operations.

The Allied officer commented that landing against the fixed defenses of Western Europe was a task quite different from that in the Mediterranean and sketched briefly the German defensive plan of underwater barriers and shore guns.

He said the Germans had possibly 1,750 fighter planes and 500 bombers to oppose the Allies.

If the landings were in the places listed

General Eisenhower's Order To His Troops

LONDON—The Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the following order of the day to his invasion troops today:

"Soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force. . . . You are about to embark on a great crusade. The eyes of the world are upon you and the hopes and prayers of all liberty-loving people go with you.

"I compare with our brave Allies and brothers in arms on other fronts you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

"Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely. But in this year of 1944 much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1941 and 1942.

"The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats in open battle, man to man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground, our home fronts have given us overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war and have placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The day has turned and free men of the world are marching together to victory.

"I have full confidence in your longer, division to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory. Good luck and let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

The First Report

This is the "Flash" for which the world had been waiting:
FLASH
LONDON—Eisenhower's headquarters announces Allies land in France. EE333ADW.

by the Germans, the Allied aim apparently was to pinch off the Cherbourg Peninsula and the good ports of Cherbourg and Le Havre, make Normandy their first main beachhead and drive up the Seine Valley to Paris.

Eisenhower himself wished Goodspeed to the paratroopers who were the first to land on the enemy-held soil of France.

For three hours previous to the Allied announcement the German radio had been pouring forth a series of flashes reporting that the Allies were landing between Le Havre and Cherbourg along the south side of the bay of the Seine and along the north coast of Normandy.

This would be across the Channel and almost due south of such British ports as Hastings, Brighton, Portsmouth and Bournemouth.

The Germans also said paratroopers had descended in Normandy and were being engaged by Nazi shock troops. The landings had been in progress several hours before the Allied communication was issued.

LEAP ASHORE
Allied soldiers leaped onto the shores which the Germans have spent nearly four years in fortifying, while

See INVASION on page 3

The Latest Invasion News In The News

Later editions of today's Charlotte News will carry full reports of the progress of the Allied invasion of France. You will get the latest news in The News today and every day.